

From: Jeanne Leary <jeanne.leary@rcn.com>
To: jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: Lmayer@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: 08/06/2022 04:28 PM
Subject: Great job on hills Hill brochure and playground communication board

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Hi Joe! Hope all is well I haven't seen you for a while. I'm so sorry I missed the zoom meeting on Tuesday night. I haven't been feeling well lately.

I have to tell you I was blown away by the professional flyer you made up for that meeting. I found it on my car on Thursday because I didn't go out on Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday. I had also seen the color version posted at the SportsCenter. I must say having your back has made such a huge difference in so many ways for the town and the neighborhood. I've spoken to several neighbors who have also expressed their appreciation.

I don't know if you did any voting at that meeting. I would just like to throw my two cents in and say that I am 200% behind the dual use of bike path and Woods. Kudos to whoever did the research on the history of the trees and included that information on the back of the brochure. I really hope that option goes through and will volunteer as much time as I can and will donate trees to help make it a success. You've probably already thought of this but in order to ensure any new growth, a water source on Hills Hill will be needed. During the road construction John Bean and I were planting small evergreen trees along Summer Street. I was trying to water them over the street from my house, and then I tried running hoses from the rink but the cars driving over the hoses kept breaking the connections. Jimmy Dodge, I miss him, put those two water spickets with attached hoses for me across from the rink door. I faithfully watered the evergreens and the volunteer trees in the rock rubble retaining wall for years but had to stop when my health declined.

I meant to tell you a few weeks ago that the main entrance to Hills Hill is the the first path on the right Hand side of lower Washington. It has one of those concrete barriers so that people can't drive in. For years it had a barrel there from DPW & signs saying "fine for littering"

etc.

There are also a few foot paths the neighbors use to access Hills Hill directly from Summer Street. Ironically they are where that pavement was put down and

then removed during the construction. So these paths Are directly across from 1 King St., 359 Summer St., and 355 Summer St. you may have mentioned all of those access points during the first meeting and I just missed it. If so please just disregard.

I Had a thought yesterday, that the entrance on lower Washington potentially could be paved just up to that top plateau area so that it would be accessible to the disabled to enjoy as well. The path is pretty level and wide and it's Probably less than the Length of the Hills Hill field. It would also require a curb cut of course

I am so thrilled that something is going to be done for Hills Hill. I do have a question about the crumbling amphitheater that Performed as a retaining wall for Hills Hill in the corner of the hills hill soccer field. Those concrete blocks are so huge and the amount of movement of them shows how desperately they are needed to support the soil of Hills Hill. It's really too bad that they're in their current condition because when I bought my house 30 years ago, I always used to go sit on them to read books when i got home from work. i first noticed the big blocks moving after the summer Street construction project was done. I think that project should have included reinforcing those retaining blocks, due to the widening of the Summer Street and the increased traffic. In their current condition they are just "an accident Waiting to happen"! they really are dangerous especially with children in that area. With the Proposed increased activity on Hills Hill, I think these blocks will move even more. Do you think DPW or P&RC could use CDBG funds to repair them? If they were repaired they could provide Hill Hill and Sports complex users with a nice place to sit for lunch or talking, while retaining the soil as originally designed. i think they'd be a great asset to your new project.

I just want to let you know a place where you could find the exact trees you're looking for for the "Eco wood restoration project". I belong to the arbor society and it only cost \$10 a year. Once you join they send you 10 trees every year for you to plant. Approximately every two months they send you another card with a group of trees that you can choose from and they'll send you saplings to plant. it may be a cheap way for Interested residents to contribute to the restoration of the woods.

One last kudos for you and/or the commission as I'm not sure who was responsible, is I think the communication board in the playground next to Bucks field is phenomenal. I was a rehab nurse for years and many of my patients used communication boards so I'm very familiar with them. But when I saw it there With instructions,I was so impressed!! I saw a mother using it with her young son, with limited language skills, the other day. they were both so happy with the board's ability to help the young boy tell his mother what he wanted do. He was smiling and clapping!

I never thought that I would be disabled in my 50s. But I am grateful for the insight it has given me as to the needs of the handicapped. Over the past year you have done so many projects to make the sports complex more accessible. From the ramp up to the rink doors, to the handicap parking spaces, to the handicapped outside bathroom, to the handicap playground which you built with

the neighbors input, to the asphalt walkway down the side of Hill's hill soccer field, to this communication board etc. I think you deserve an award Joe, And please know your efforts are greatly appreciated by so many people in this town. Great job!

Sorry for all the spelling and grammar errors! I copied Leslie on this because I want to commend the commission as well as you Joe. because I know you all work as a team. Could you please put this email under "correspondence received" for your next meeting minutes and give a copy to the other commissioners. It took me more than 15 minutes to be able to type in Leslie's email correctly so I'm giving up and hoping you can help me by sendind it to others. Take care and enjoy the rest of the summer!

Miss seeing you All every month. ;-)

Jeanne

Jeanne Leary
425 Summer Street
Arlington, MA 02474
603-345-0000

Attachments:

File: image0.jpeg	Size: 1723k	Content Type: image/jpeg
File: image2.jpeg	Size: 1749k	Content Type: image/jpeg

From: Ann LeRoy <annleroyer12@gmail.com>
To: JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us, Shirley Canniff <bcanniff@comcast.net>
Date: 08/06/2022 02:51 PM
Subject: Some comments on Hill's Hill proposal

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Hi Joe and Shirley,
I'm sending this just to you two now, but please share it with other PRC members, the trail designer, or others as appropriate.

First, I want to thank you for hosting the August 2 public meeting about the feasibility study for mountain biking at Hill's Hill. The large turnout certainly showed a wide range of interests and concerns for what we can all agree is a long-ignored and little-known corner of Arlington. It deserves some love and attention. My comments here are offered as a nearby resident and occasional user (walking) of the Hill's Hill trails... I'm not speaking for the Open Space Committee, though we have discussed this and will continue to do so. I hope and expect we can be a partner in following up on next steps.

I will admit that my own initial reaction to the idea of mountain biking at Hill's Hill (or really anywhere on Arlington's limited open spaces) was mostly negative. I now appreciate that through collaboration with many constituencies, it seems possible to reach a consensus that may not satisfy every concern or wish list, but that can bring a new recreational activity to the town while also protecting some existing trails for walkers, protecting the tree canopy, and also bringing increased attention to the management of invasive plants on this site.

I do have a few specific observations to add to or reinforce what I'm sure is already a long and growing list of considerations that you are seeking to address...

1. Erosion and safety on trails. When I have walked on other properties where both mountain biking and hiking are allowed, I am always concerned about erosion and the creation of dangerous trails due to exposed roots and dislodged rocks and pebbles. Such evidence is already visible at Hill's Hill. Will regular maintenance be done to keep multi-use trails safe for walking and dogs, and to prevent excessive erosion and degradation of the soil and hillsides?
2. Tree canopy. At the meeting, I mentioned consulting with Tim Lecuivre, the town's tree warden, and you confirmed that he is always involved in park planning projects. In this case, I think it's particularly important to demonstrate his active involvement to satisfy the vocal concerns of many who

fear "clear-cutting." I was never concerned that would happen, but I still think Tim should work closely with PRC and the trail designer to identify appropriate trees to cut or prune or to protect along the designated trails, and to redirect trails around specimen trees as needed.

3. Safety. I'm sure you're well aware of the possibility of injury to bikers and walkers using these kinds of trails. As an anecdote, my 11-year old great-nephew, an ardent mountain biker like his father, had an accident at a MB camp and broke both his wrists... getting him to a hospital for treatment took several hours. I know Arlington has excellent EMTs and we are close to many hospitals, but I do wonder what precautions and plans will be put in place in the case of such an eventuality. I assume the Town has liability insurance in place as well.

4. Invasive plant management. It's great to see Elaine Crowder and many other people already engaged in removal of invasive plants and thinking about ways to involve young people and other users in this effort going forward. As you know, poison ivy is rampant throughout Hill's Hill and along the bike path where the skills track is proposed, and is one of many challenges to be addressed in the design and construction of safe trails.

5. Pump track. I hope that a plan can be developed to move this feature away from the hilltop to a larger, more suitable area. This seems to be the primary concern of most participants who want to come to some compromise on the project, including myself. Would the Town-owned property on Ryder St. be available for this kind of recreational use after DPW moves back to Grove St.? It would seem to be an ideal location, next to the Rec Dept, rink, bike path, and close to the MB trails, etc... A real win-win could be achieved with this opportunity to have it all, but with the least amount of disturbance to the existing woods.

Thanks again for your outreach and thoughtful work on this mountain biking proposal. I look forward to working with you as the study progresses -- both as a nearby resident and as chair of the Open Space Committee.

Best,

Ann LeRoy

12 Peirce St.

TMM Precinct 17

From: Karin Turer <karin@tugboat23.com>
To: Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: 08/04/2022 11:51 AM
Subject: Thank you!

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Hi Joe,

Thanks for leading a great meeting on Tuesday re: Hill's Hill. I am not sure how some people got the idea that this plan involved clear-cutting as a scare tactic, but I think you did a great job keeping an even tone throughout. I particularly appreciated your being so kind as to give Mr. Brown a chance to speak - I didn't agree with what he had to say but it felt above-and-beyond to make sure that he got a chance despite his busy schedule. I also appreciated your shout-out to Elaine - it was a good reminder that we are all neighbors. We may not agree on the specifics of this plan, but she and I have worked together on invasives work.

I just wanted to again write in with my wholehearted enthusiasm for moving forward with this project. If you haven't been to the pump track in Billerica in Russell Mills, I highly recommend it. It's a great example of being built straight into the woods, in a way that you wouldn't even know it was there if you weren't looking for it. The last time I was there, the riders were my husband and 11-year-old, a mom and her two elementary-aged daughters with sparkly bikes, and a few teens as well. I'm always amazed at how kind teens can be around younger kids - it's notable at the McClennen Skate Park as well and it's great for everyone.

One quick question a friend and I were discussing. As a compromise, is there a possibility of having the pump track in the park area that is immediately WEST of the ice rink next to the bikeway? It's very underused at least in the 15 years I have been here. The most I ever see is occasional basketball (Peirce seems more popular) and occasional groups sitting in the shade.

Thanks again!

Karin Turer
525 Summer Street

From: "Ian C. Pilarczyk" <pilarczykld@yahoo.com>
To: jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: 08/04/2022 11:58 AM
Subject: Hills Hill

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Hi- as a resident of Bow St and user of the Minuteman, just wanted to add my voice in opposition to the proposal - we need to preserve the green space we have!

Thank you
Ian

Dr. Ian C. Pilarczyk
617.851.9470

Sent from my iPhone, with some misgivings

Hi Michael:

Thank you for including me in this correspondence. I share your concern about precious green space and costs. While I am not in favor of this particular use, I might comment that the Town has to have the flexibility to pursue different options on a preliminary or investigative basis without Town Meeting approval. This is the responsibility of professionals managing the Town, such as Parks and Rec Director Joe Connelly or Town Manager Sandy Pooler among others. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Commission has purview over these properties and is a citizen-based body guiding the Town. The Commission has broad responsibility, many projects, and its members put in many hours of hard work for the Town. Probably, at this time, the Commission should be the focus of positive or negative input on this concept, long before it gets to Town Meeting.

Also, as explained in the attached press release, I am still a member of, but no longer Chair of, the Finance Committee. I have taken the liberty of copying Christine Deshler, our new FinCom Chair, on this note with your email below.

Thanks again for your note and for being a diligent TMM and concerned citizen. I will make sure to spread the word about this project.

Kind regards,
Charlie

Charlie Foscett
101 Brantwood Road
Arlington, MA 02476-8005
1.781.492.0800 (Mobile)
1.781.646.5882 (Home)
1.781.641.4769 (Fax)
Email: charlie.foscett@foskettco.com
Skype: cfoscett

From: Michael Jacoby Brown <mjbrown246@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 4, 2022 10:45 AM
To: Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>; Imayer@town.arlington.ma.us; Charlie Foscett <charlie.foscett@foskettco.com>
Subject: Fwd: Hills Hill Mountain Bike Park

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Marlene Silva <marlenesilva.dem@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Aug 4, 2022 at 10:36 AM
Subject: Re: Hills Hill Mountain Bike Park
To: Michael Jacoby Brown <MJBROWN246@gmail.com>

Hi Michael,

I just heard about this today, and am furious that the Town Rec. Dept thinks this would be an asset to the town. Protecting greenspace is even more critical now due to the climate crisis.

I firmly oppose the **Mountain Bike Park in Hills Hill**. Please keep me informed about how we can oppose this egregious project.

Marlene Silva

781-290-8432

On Thu, Aug 4, 2022 at 9:30 AM Michael Jacoby Brown <mjbrown246@gmail.com> wrote:

August 4, 2022

Dear Fellow Town Meeting members and neighbors,

I recently learned that the Town Rec. Department is planning on developing Mountain Bike Park in Hills Hill. Some of you may live near Hills Hill, as I do, on Brattle Terrace. I live about 100 feet from the entrance on Washington Street.

I received a letter about a "hearing" over Zoom about this, after the Town has already spent about \$7,000 on a "consultant" to "study" this idea. Mr. Connelly said in an email the idea for this came from "one resident." (Unidentified).

I don't think we need this Mountain Bike Park and could spend our limited Town funds on more pressing matters: public safety, schools, road repair, affordable housing, etc.

Mr. Connelly said Town Meeting would have to vote on spending more money to develop this Mountain Bike Park in Hills Hill. From the "study", it looks like a lot of trees would have to be cut down, increasing run off into the surrounding neighborhoods. If developed, we would likely see people from surrounding Towns coming here, parking on our nearby streets, etc. Many trees in the area have already been cut down for development some years ago on what is now Summer Hill Circle.

So, what do you think? Do you want to spend our tax dollars on a Mountain Bike Park in Hills Hill?

The Recreation Commission, Community Preservation Committee and Town Finance Committee would also be involved and it would be good to let them know what the neighbors of Hills Hill think before this Mountain Bike Park gets any more of our tax money for more "consultants" and more "studies."

Please let me know what YOU and/or your neighbors think of building a Mountain Bike Park in Hills Hill. We will have to vote on it at Town Meeting. My hope is we can conserve the Town's limited funds for more pressing needs.

You can reach me by phone or text: 617 645 0226, or Email: MJBROWN246@GMAIL.COM

Thanks to all of you for your service to our Town.

Respectfully,

Michael Jacoby Brown, 10 Brattle Terrace, Arlington, TMM, Pct 17

--PS: I was saddened to learn that no one from the Rec. Commission or Mr. Connelly thought to inform local Town Meeting members of this idea before spending the Town's money on "consultants" We are not hard to find or to inform. Just sending an email -- which takes a few minutes -- would have been more respectful of neighbors of Hills Hill and we who try to represent them as Town Meeting Members.

Michael Jacoby Brown

10 Brattle Terrace

Arlington, MA 02474 USA

Mobile: 617 645 0226

author: *Building Powerful Community Organizations*

Pronouns he, him, his

www.MichaelJacobyBrown.com

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ws58VrYAVuY>

From: Michael Jacoby Brown <mjbrown246@gmail.com>
To: Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>, Imayer@town.arlington.ma.us, Charlie Foscett <charlie.foscett@foskettco.com>
Date: 08/04/2022 10:45 AM
Subject: Fwd: Hills Hill Mountain Bike Park

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From: Marlene Silva <marlenesilva.dem@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Aug 4, 2022 at 10:36 AM
Subject: Re: Hills Hill Mountain Bike Park
To: Michael Jacoby Brown <MJBROWN246@gmail.com>

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Thanks to all of you for your service to our Town.

Respectfully,

Michael Jacoby Brown, 10 Brattle Terrace, Arlington, TMM, Pct 17

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Arlington, MA 02474 USA
Mobile: 617 645 0226
author: *Building Powerful Community Organizations*
Pronouns he, him, his
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From: Michael Jacoby Brown <mjbrown246@gmail.com>
Michael Brown <mjbrown246@gmail.com>, Angela Olszewski <amolyszewski@gmail.com>, Alan Tosti <abtosti@outlook.com>, Susan Webber <sdwebber@rcn.com>, Josh Arnold <josharnold52@gmail.com>, Laura Gitelson <lbg217@gmail.com>, Ann LeRoy <annleroy12@gmail.com>, Amy Slutzky <amy.l.slutzky@gmail.com>, Hila Bernstein <hila.bernstein@gmail.com>, "Beth O'Brien (Soraya's Mom)" <bethio33@gmail.com>, Xavid <xavid@xavid.us>, Wendy Richter <richterg@aol.com>, precinct19fcm@gmail.com, mattowentmm@gmail.com, susanryanvollmar@gmail.com, mzuckerman51@gmail.com, nevach@gmail.com, christinepdeshler@hotmail.com, doraleeh1@gmail.com, clairejohnsontmm@gmail.com, melb.tmm419@gmail.com, elaine-tmm19@communication-exchange.com, Marlene Silva <marlenesilva.dem@gmail.com>, edwardtremblyprecinct19@gmail.com

To:

Cc: Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>, lmayer@town.arlington.ma.us

Date: 08/04/2022 09:31 AM

Subject: Hills Hill Mountain Bike Park

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From: Elaine Crowder <ecrowder@communication-exchange.com>
To: Joe Connelly <JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: 08/03/2022 04:49 PM
Subject: Re: questions about conduct of the meeting

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Hi Joe -

I sent this before the meeting - but you guys were meeting during that time. So it was a bit stale by the time it got to you. Guess a busy day for both of us.

I agree that last night's meeting had a good mix of views ... and agree with your characterization of opinions.

In my comments below, I was referring to the first open meeting that had more mountain biking folks in attendance and thus didn't represent a full sampling of Arlington residents. So the mountain biking viewpoint prevailed in that meeting.

Thanks for clarifying the residence requirement for PRC meetings. It's fairly strict in town meeting which is what I'm most familiar with. And it does seem good to at least have a protocol of stating residence status, especially in meetings that are likely to draw outside supporters from groups such as NE Mountain Biking.

One other thing - given the unfortunate dog distractions, I missed portions of the public chat. When I went to save/ copy, that feature was disabled. Might I get a copy of the chat?

Thanks for all the work that you and the commission have and will put in to listening to and incorporating public comments into each iteration of the plan. A work in progress!

Best, Elaine

On 2022-08-03 10:06, Joe Connelly wrote:

Hi Elaine,

All correspondence will be public. I honestly can't think of a fairer or more equitable process that we have exhibited so far. I disagree that the majority of views were pro mountain biking but rather a good mix of views. Some in favor, some opposed, and some in favor of some kind of mixed use depending on how the trails are built and where the pump track goes.

Regarding residence, this is not a requirement but besides Will from Powder Horn I don't think there were any non residence that spoke last night.

Joseph Connelly, M. Ed.
Director of Recreation
Town of Arlington

Arlington values equity, diversity, and inclusion. We are committed to building a community where everyone is heard, respected, and protected.

From: Elaine Crowder <ecrowder@communication-exchange.com>
To: Joe Connelly <JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: Tue, 02 Aug 2022 17:54:22 -0400
Subject: questions about conduct of the meeting

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Dear Joe Connelly, Recreation Director and Park & Rec Commissioners

I'm looking forward to the opportunity to hear more about plans for Hill's Hill mountain biking. As you know I was among the first to notice the unauthorized trail building happening at Hill's Hill. Kids I spoke with and told about the first open meeting were surprised to learn that I and others needed to secure permission from Parks to remove weeds.

With respect, and in the interest of creating a fair public dialogue, I'm writing to ask that these things be considered:

1. Since the first public hearing for Hill's Hill was dominated by the mountain biking crowd (being already primed about these hearings held about other public spaces in Arlington).

And, since the mountain biking pre-proposal itself will take up considerable time during this meeting

Please consider giving other views more than 50% of the public comment air time

2. Since Arlingtonians are the source of financial support for this project - please consider how to prioritize comments from Arlington residents, or at least how to make obvious who is a resident and who is not
3. Please consider making all letters provided in the Commission packet to Commissioners public, as other commissions and boards do, alongside the agenda for the meeting.
4. Please consider making public the list of all questions asked and the Commission's answers

It was in the same spirit of open dialogue that I invited all invested in Park and Rec to one of two evening strolls at Hill's Hill. I still hope to see you there in the future!

Thank you for considering these requests!

Elaine Crowder
TMM Pct 19
Inasives ArMI

-

===

Elaine Crowder, Ph. D.
Communication Exchange

From: Marina Karageorgiou <karageorgioum@yahoo.com>
To: "jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us" <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: 08/03/2022 09:48 PM
Subject: Hills hill project

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Hello,

I know I'm probably late to this but I'm writing in regards the hills hill proposal. I just saw that they are trying to do to it , and try have you see it from my eye how this would be so not the right place for that.

Hills hills is the only place that I well as others could walk with out kids & bikes running or screaming at you to move out the way.

It's one of the few green woods in Arlington

I can walk to it and enjoy the trees and the outdoors (with out getting lost, I tried walking to monotony rocks woods and got lost (I have cognitive disability))

There is wild life there that they hole project would disturb (then people wonder why the coyote, foxes etc come out cause the people taking over ll the green spaces that they used to leave)

I would suggest that not going to put it there but maybe they can have it by the skateboard park more up on Summer street, that would be a better placeits flat and they can create their bike ramps .

Let's not ruin another green spot please.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

From: Luchy Roa <luchyroakeefe@gmail.com>
To: jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: 08/04/2022 01:39 AM
Subject: Hills hills project

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Hi
Reaching out to you opposing to this project
Thanks
Maria Roa

Sent from my iPad

From: Luchy Roa <luchyroakeefe@gmail.com>
To: jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: 08/04/2022 01:39 AM
Subject: Hills hills project

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Hi
Reaching out to you opposing to this project
Thanks
Maria Roa

Sent from my iPad

Joseph Connelly, M. Ed.
Director of Recreation
Town of Arlington

Arlington values equity, diversity, and inclusion. We are committed to building a community where everyone is heard, respected, and protected.

From: Brian McBride <brianmcb@outlook.com>
To: "jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us" <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: Mon, 1 Aug 2022 13:47:32 +0000
Subject: Hill's Hill Input

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Hello Mr. Connelly,

I want to provide some citizen input for the upcoming Hill's Hill Mountain Bike meeting.

I bring some experience here as the father of a teen mountain-biker, the founder of a kids hiking group, and a member of the town Open Space Committee.

I've attached a few slides that I hope are useful.

My **conclusion** is:

* I believe the Town can serve **BOTH** the needs of mountain bikers and support recovering wooded habitat, with four actions

1.
Relocate
pump track out of woods
2.
Design
and fund trails with habitat restoration, plantings, erosion measures
3.
Enlist
school, community groups to contribute, elevate, and support the project (Mtn Bike, Invasives, APS, etc)
4.

Include passive recreation eco-signage, walking,
educational rest spots

Thanks to you and the Parks and Recreation Commission the the good work you do for the Town! I look forward to hearing more on the project.

Brian McBride

From: Brian McBride <brianmcb@outlook.com>
To: Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: 08/03/2022 03:32 PM
Subject: Re: Hill's Hill Input

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Hi Joe and Parks and Recreation Commissioners,

First, thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the Hill's Hill project last night. I thought it was a fair and open dialog.

I'll share my personal observations, in the event it's helpful as you all guide the project.

I heard:

- Many support mountain biking at Hill's Hill. Some with and some without specific reservations or limitations.
- Some oppose mountain biking at the site at all. Reasons included: habitat destruction, noise, danger to walkers, expense.
- Many - if not most - have concerns with structures and construction in woods/meadow caused by locating the Pump Track there.
- The Eco Track modifications we proposed seems to strike a chord. **Moving the Pump Track outside of woods/meadow, upgrading trails with conservation in mind, and deep participation of volunteer support groups seemed popular.**

My hope is the PRC heard a similar support - for biking **and** conservation - and can incorporate these specifications in the next round of review.

Thanks again,

Brian McBride
m 617-645-8729
brianmcb@outlook.com

On Aug 1, 2022, at 10:51 AM, Joe Connelly
<jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us> wrote:

Thanks Brian,

I will pass this along.

From: Wynelle Evans <evco7@rcn.com>
To: jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us, richterg@aol.com, lmayer@town.arlington.ma.us, scanniff@town.arlington.ma.us, jrothenberg@town.arlington.ma.us, Wynelle Evans <evco7@rcn.com>
Date: 08/03/2022 03:26 PM
Subject: Hill's Hill Mountain Bike Park suggestion

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Hi all—

Thank you for hosting last night's forum, and allowing open discussion and chat.

The main sticking point I heard last night, and which I share, is the location of the pump track at the top of the hill. I suggested an alternate site at the Stratton School, and Wendy Richter of the Open Space Committee had the wonderful idea to create a linear experience for the park, along the Bike Path.

A nearby area that would align with her idea is the small park to the west of the rink, adjacent to the basketball court. It is quickly accessible from Hill's Hill and the Bike Path. It is currently under-utilized and in need of some TLC. I never see anyone sitting there or using any of the physical fitness stations. How about using this site for the pump track? It also has the benefit of being much more easily accessible for any necessary equipment to create the track, as well as ongoing maintenance, which the top of Hill's Hill is not.

If this were to be the case, I'd be more supportive of the whole idea, and I suspect many others would be as well. I hope this will receive careful consideration, and again, thank you for listening.

Best wishes,
Wynelle

Wynelle Evans
TMM pct. 14
20 Orchard Place
Arlington, MA 02476
781.643.4547 office
781.859.9291 mobile
evco7@rcn.com

From: Natalie DeLaria <ndelaria@achs.net>
To: jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: 08/03/2022 01:44 PM
Subject: Feasibility study- public input- Hills Hill

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Good afternoon!

I cannot log in for the Zoom meeting this evening and would like to express my extreme DISAPPROVAL of the current proposal for Hills Hill.

I'd like to see this green space remain just that- green space. There are very few spaces which preserve nature in town. Also, sports and activities for kids have literally taken up all park space most times spring through fall in Arlington, but this is one spot where bikes, frisbee, little league, soccer, flag football, etc aren't specifically played... As a high school teacher, I appreciate that kids started this proposal- but the funds for this project would only benefit a small portion of the population. I walk there somewhat frequently and would like one space that is not dedicated to kids activities.

Thank you for your time,
Natalie DeLaria

From: Michael Jacoby Brown <mjbrown246@gmail.com>
To: Joe Connelly <JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: 08/03/2022 11:48 AM
Subject: Re: Please forward to Rec commissioners and to Town Meeting Members of Pcts 17 and 19

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Thanks, this came from one resident? Who was that? Why don't you send information to Town Meeting Members when a local project is considered? Seems to me if you want input you could easily inform Town Meeting Members when something local is possibly occurring. I don't know your intention, but the impact, on me at least, is that you don't care about what neighbors think. I understand that intent and impact are separate and distinct. I thought you might be interested in the impact of your behavior. Respectfully, Michael

On Wed, Aug 3, 2022 at 11:15 AM Joe Connelly <JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us> wrote:

Hi Michael,

Below are the answers to your questions but they are similar to the ones I gave you in my previous emails.

1 - We emailed all abutters within 300' of Hills Hill. It was sent to over 300 residence. We have never sent out invites to Town Meeting members for any of our pending projects. The meetings were also publicly posted and anyone who emailed me about the issue received notice of the meeting. It was also talked about at our monthly Park Commission meetings.

2 - The idea originated with a resident, was brought the idea to the Commission, the Commission formed a working group, the working group made a recommendation to the Commission, the Commission agreed that it was worth further investigation and therefore conducted a feasibility study.

3. There are no official plans so we have no idea on the tree impact until we get into a more detailed design. If we decide to move forward the environmental impact will certainly be considered as part of the design process.

4. The meeting was not recorded but I will certainly send you my notes once I have them typed up.

Joseph Connelly, M. Ed.
Director of Recreation
Town of Arlington

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From: Michael Jacoby Brown <mjbrown246@gmail.com>
To: Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>, Ann LeRoyer <annleroyer12@gmail.com>, Sandy Buck <sandybuck@rcn.com>, Ann FitzGerald <annfitz@rcn.com>, Lisa Pedulla <lpedulla@verizon.net>
Cc: "Allan & Barbara Tosti" <abtosti@rcn.com>, Greg Christiana <gchristiana@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: Wed, 3 Aug 2022 10:57:46 -0400

From: Michael Jacoby Brown <mjbrown246@gmail.com>
To: Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>, Ann LeRoyer <annleroyer12@gmail.com>, Sandy Buck <sandybuck@rcn.com>, Ann FitzGerald <annfitz@rcn.com>, Lisa Pedulla <lpedulla@verizon.net>
Cc: "Allan & Barbara Tosti" <abtosti@rcn.com>, Greg Christiana <gchristiana@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: 08/03/2022 10:58 AM
Subject: Please forward to Rec commissioners and to Town Meeting Members of Pcts 17 and 19

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Dear Mr. Connelly, Thank you for accommodating my work schedule to allow me to comment on the proposed "mountain bike" situation in Hills Hill.

Mr. Connelly:

Mr. Christian: Could you please forward to the Town Meeting Members in Pcts 17 and 19 which are near Hills Hill. Thank you.

1. Why were the Town Meeting members in Pcts 17 and 19, which represent residents abutting Hills Hill not notified about this proposal, except late into the process? I assume it is fairly easy to find our emails on the Town website. I know most if not all the Pct 17 and 19 members are listed. It seems especially, since those closest to Hills Hill would be affected if many trees are cut down, with accompanying noise, loss of trees, increased run off and other environmental hazards -- and any with a car and mountain bike invited to come mountain here. We would be affected seriously. Why were we not emailed about this proposal?

2. Who's idea was this in the first place?

3. Has there been any looking into the environmental impact of cutting down many trees in Hills Hill? Seems to me this would increase water run off, and move any critters living there into the neighborhood. Anyone think about this?

3. Thank you for hosting the Zoom meeting. I work most nights (except Friday) until 9 pm. so could not listen in unfortunately, and would be glad to get a recording of the Zoom meeting and to see any comments from those who live near Hills Hill. Thank you.

Respectfully, Michael Jacoby Brown, Town Meeting Member, Pct 17

--

From: Chris Neumann <chrispneumann@gmail.com>
To: jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: 08/03/2022 02:22 PM
Subject: Hill's Hill Bike Park

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Hello Joseph,

I hope you're having a great day. I've seen some talk on facebook recently regarding the proposed Mountain Bike Skills Park for the Hill's Hill area in Arlington. I've seen several arguments for the bike park from the Mountain Biking community, and several arguments against the bike park from the dog owners community. I currently live in East Arlington with my wife and happen to fall in both of these categories of being a dog owner AND a Mountain Biker. While I see the concerns of the Dog Owners, in all of my time mountain biking I've never once seen bikers "fly by people walking dogs". I think some people are trying to make the argument that this bike park will bring "undesirable" people into the community which I find utterly ridiculous. Sure some people will come to check out the trails, but I would imagine that NEMBA, the New England Massachusetts Bike Association would do everything in its power to continue to promote safe, clean, and well maintained trails for the entire community to enjoy.

There are SEVERAL areas in Arlington where dogs are welcome to walk around both on and off-leash. I'm partial to the Boys and Girls Club field which has been an awesome resource for our dog Kona. That being said, a well maintained bike park will be an invaluable resource for both the young and old bike enthusiasts to improve their skills in a safe and maintained location. This provides an outlet for these bikers to enjoy nature, while also doing so in a safe way (i.e. professionally made features rather than kids building up potentially unsafe jumps in other areas around town).

I personally would love to see this project come to fruition and I hope that you don't get too many nasty emails that you have to reply to!

Have a great rest of your day,

Chris Neumann
30 Allen St.
Arlington, MA 02474

From: Nancy Fontenot <nfonteno@gmail.com>
To: Joe Connelly <JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: 08/02/2022 03:38 PM
Subject: Re: Hills Hill Mountain Biking Proposal

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You bet! Thanks for your quick response.

I just want to follow up to also add that I support the current proposal as is. I understand there are some residents who are concerned about the impact on the land, specifically the trees in the area. Personally, I love Arlington's greenspaces and have made good use of them over the years. My family has spent a lot of time at Menotomy Rocks park, McClennan, Turkey Hill and many other of Arlington's parks and recreational spaces. We are so fortunate to live in a town which has so many beautiful outdoor spaces for sports and recreation of all sorts.

The town already has many shared spaces for biking, hiking, yoga, organized sports, educational instruction, etc. I truly feel that we can afford to allow this proposed new space to function as a dedicated area for the mountain biking community without having to compromise on design elements. I understand people are resistant to change but, in order for it to be successful, we really should commit to implementing something that will fulfill all of the needs of this particular sport, including a full pump track. Let's not settle for minor "eco-friendly" changes which may please no one in the end and which could lead to friction amongst different populations competing for space. If people recognize that it's a dedicated bike trail/pump track, they will seek out other venues for other interests.

Thanks again!
Nancy

On Mon, Aug 1, 2022 at 4:06 PM Joe Connelly <JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us> wrote:

Thanks Nancy!

Joseph Connelly, M. Ed.
Director of Recreation
Town of Arlington

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From: Nancy <nfonteno@gmail.com>
To: Joe Connelly <JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: Mon, 1 Aug 2022 15:39:22 -0400
Subject: Hills Hill Mountain Biking Proposal

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Dear Mr. Connelly,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed mountain bike trails and pump track at Hills Hill in Arlington.

As a local resident, and parent to two young, active boys, I frequently lament the lack of local destinations appealing to tweens and teens in Arlington. I look back fondly on my own childhood, growing up in a town similar to this one, where we had the freedom to explore our surroundings and gather in public to socialize with other kids our age. There may no longer be arcades or roller rinks but this proposal provides us with an opportunity to provide a destination for local adolescents to gather to enjoy much needed healthy physical activity and fresh air, while offering them a chance to challenge themselves, learn new skills, and make new friends.

Not only do I believe that this proposal could improve the mental and physical health of our teen population, as well as other members of our own community, but because of its location, I think this addition to the town's recreational assets could potentially encourage non-residents from nearby towns to stop and spend some time and money here in Arlington. It would be a wonderful added benefit to our town.

For all of these reasons, I do hope that the proposal is approved and implemented as soon as possible.

Thank you,
Nancy Fontenot

Hello:

I am an Arlington resident and a supported of the proposed mountain biking skills park at Hills Hill. I am willing to volunteer with labor if helpful to push this project through completion.

Thank you for your time,
Matt

Matthew Serreze

BENJAMIN CONSTRUCTION
586 Pleasant St. #3
Watertown, MA 02472
C: 978-835-3281
Benjamin-Construction.com

From: Lauren Magoun <lmagoun@gmail.com>
To: "jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us" <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: 08/03/2022 10:20 AM
Subject: In Support of Mtn Bike Planning

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Dear Mr. Connelly-

As a parent of 2 teens in Arlington, I am fully supportive of moving forward with planning for a mountain biking area. This could be a fantastic addition to the town. It would provide my kids, who are not interested in team sports, an opportunity to get outdoors, locally and have some wonderful physical activity. I think it is a fantastic idea!

Sincerely-

Lauren Magoun
Newport St.

From: Weston Lane <weslane@gmail.com>
To: jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: 08/03/2022 07:47 AM
Subject: mountain bike park support

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Hi Joe,

I'm late to add my support to the proposal for a bike park here in Arlington but I wanted to anyway, in case it helps at all.

I'm an Arlington resident with a young daughter who attends Brackett elementary school. I take her biking all the time but the options for fun skill-building rides is very limited here - I either need to drive to the Allston pump track or way out to Russell Mills. It would be so amazing to have something local!

Thanks,

Wes

From: Cameron Cogburn <cameron.cogburn@gmail.com>
To: jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: 08/02/2022 08:24 PM
Subject: Great job

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Joe,

I just wanted to just say you have done a great job. I've been proud of the improvements I've been seeing recently around Arlington like the Reservoir path and Reservoir Beach renovation projects. You are a patient man! Anyways, a sincere thank you for all you do.

Best,
Cameron

PS: The HH commission also seems very passionate about improving our community. With regards to that I definitely feel comfortable with their recommendation no matter what that is.

From: Gillian Wright-Cassone <gillian.cassone@gmail.com>
To: jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: 08/02/2022 10:05 PM
Subject: Hills Hill

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Hello,

I'm writing in regards to the mountain bike trail plan at hills hill. I'm not opposed to a trail being designed but it does need to be designed keeping the forest preserved as much as possible. We cannot simply take out a natural habitat for human enjoyment.

Thank you,
Gillian Wright Cassone
51 kenilworth rd Arlington

From: Robbe Smith <robbe.smith@gmail.com>
To: jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: 08/02/2022 05:49 PM
Subject: Arlington Bike Park

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Hi Joe,

I am not able to make the meeting tonight, but I wanted to offer my support for the proposed Arlington bike park. There are so many great things that will come from putting a bike park in a largely unused plot of land. For one, the land will no longer be used as a party spot for kids. It will also give the local kids who don't participate in field sports a place to go after school. Skills parks are great for watching kids develop skills and confidence that comes along with it. It will also be a great place for parents who ride, and those that don't, a place to come as a family for some outdoor fun. I wish there was a place like this when my son was younger. Thanks

Thanks

Robbe Smith
Arlington resident

From: Michael Zocchi <mrzocchi@gmail.com>
To: jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: 08/02/2022 06:12 PM
Subject: Hills Hill Mountain Biking Study

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Hi,
I think this is a great idea.
Michael Zocchi

From: Janice Griffin <jg520.griffin@gmail.com>
To: "jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us" <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: 08/02/2022 07:41 PM
Subject: Hill's Hill Eco-Track opinion

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Dear Joe,

My husband and I live on Summer St. in Arlington directly across the street from Hill's Hill. We have enjoyed walking through the wooded area for over 10 years. The trees, native plants and wildlife are special to see on a daily basis. Given the fact that there are few unique spaces like this with such an ecosystem, it would be sad to see all of this taken away for the sole purpose of creating a mountain bike recreational area. I question the actual number of people who would use this in comparison with the numerous Arlington residents who walk their dogs, use it as a convenient way to walk to the Minuteman bike path, or to have a picnic with their kids/grandkids. The educational opportunities for teaching students about our environment and the ways in which to preserve and enhance these habitats is valuable.

We would be open to the "Eco-Track" option as a way of promoting recreation for youth as long as it minimizes the environmental impact for the space. It would be great to see this be a multi-used and appreciated land for many in years to come.

Thank you,

Janice & Tim Griffin

From: Matthew De Remer <mderemer@gmail.com>
To: jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: 08/02/2022 08:04 PM
Subject: Hills Hill Feasibility Study Public Input

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Good evening Mr. Connelly,

Thank you to you, Mr. Lasker, Mr. Conroy and the rest of the commission for facilitating this evening's meeting. I write to you to express my support for the planned mountain biking facility at Hill's Hill.

This will offer an excellent opportunity for youth (and adults) for recreation and safe exercise, New opportunities that have arised in the last 10 years like the Alewife Greenway have added to our community and I believe this new facility when constructed will as well. Facilities like this are part of what drew my family to Arlington.

For those concerned about the impact on Hill's Hill I would invite them to visit Russell Mill Pond in Chelmsford. This newly opened facility took a seldom used town forest and fit a network of single track trails in nicely with the natural environment and leverages the existing trees and landscape to make those trails exciting and engaging. They also added a very popular pump track that has become a regional destination for youth riders. Placing that pump track in the woods allows for natural shading which I would strongly recommend for this facility as well. This recent heat wave shows how problematic sun baked recreation is.

Asking kids to drive to Chelmsford or Medford to have this experience is unreasonable when we havè the land and money seemingly available.

For those concerned about wildlife and vegetation I would offer that it continues to thrive in and around mountain bike trails. I'd point to the Burlington Landlocked Forest where I've sighted deer, black squirrels(!) and other wildlife. Though as some of the DCR reports on the Fells have stated we do have to be thoughtful in leaving pockets of untouched area for wildlife and vegetation, which I'm sure can be accomodated in this project.

Likewise I would offer that the way to get the next generation to be better stewards of the environment is to get them into nature. Different people will

engage in different ways and one of those ways is mountain biking. It is so important to get this engagement.

Best Regards,
Matthew De Remer
East Arlington

From: Montserrat Zuckerman <mzuckerman51@gmail.com>
To: MJBROWN246@gmail.com
Angela Olszewski <amolyszewski@gmail.com>, Alan Tosti <abtosti@outlook.com>, Susan Webber <sdwebber@rcn.com>, Josh Arnold <josharnold52@gmail.com>, Laura Gitelson <lbg217@gmail.com>, Ann LeRoyer <annleroyer12@gmail.com>, Amy Slutzky <amy.l.slutzky@gmail.com>, Hila Bernstein <hila.bernstein@gmail.com>, "Beth O'Brien (Soraya's Mom)" <bethio33@gmail.com>, Xavid <xavid@xavid.us>, Wendy Richter <richterg@aol.com>, precinct19fcm@gmail.com, mattowentmm@gmail.com, susanryanvollmar@gmail.com, nevach@gmail.com, christinepdeshler@hotmail.com, doraleeh1@gmail.com, clairejohnsontmm@gmail.com, melb.tmm419@gmail.com, elaine-tmm19@communication-exchange.com, Marlene Silva <marlenesilva.dem@gmail.com>, edwardtremblyprecinct19@gmail.com, Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>, lmayer@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc:
Date: 08/04/2022 05:41 PM
Subject: Re: Hills Hill Mountain Bike Park

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Maybe this is helpful for the discussion: These are the results of the preliminary study ([637707560346927049 \(arlingtonma.gov\)](https://www.arlingtonma.gov/637707560346927049)). It mentions the Crusher Lot (behind Ottoson MS) and I found this petition regarding the Crusher Lot, one of the places that were supposedly studied: [Petition · Make Crusher Lot an Official Mountain Bike Park · Change.org](#).

There is no indication of how the people who did the study decided that there would be less of a problem for abutters at Hill's Hill than at Crusher Lot. If it's because of the large parking lot by the skating rink, I would bet that lot gets a lot more use on weekends than the Ottoson school parking lot.

Montserrat Zuckerman
Translations InterAmerica Inc.
Arlington, MA
781.648.4347

On Thu, Aug 4, 2022 at 9:30 AM Michael Jacoby Brown <mjbrown246@gmail.com> wrote:

August 4, 2022

Dear Fellow Town Meeting members and neighbors,

I recently learned that the Town Rec. Department is planning on developing Mountain Bike Park in Hills Hill. Some of you may live near Hills Hill, as I do, on Brattle Terrace. I live about 100 feet from the entrance on Washington Street.

I received a letter about a "hearing" over Zoom about this, after the Town has already spent about \$7,000 on a "consultant" to "study" this idea. Mr. Connelly said in an email the idea for this came from "one resident."

(Unidentified).

I don't think we need this Mountain Bike Park and could spend our limited Town funds on more pressing matters: public safety, schools, road repair, affordable housing, etc.

Mr. Connelly said Town Meeting would have to vote on spending more money to develop this Mountain Bike Park in Hills Hill. From the "study", it looks like a lot of trees would have to be cut down, increasing run off into the surrounding neighborhoods. If developed, we would likely see people from surrounding Towns coming here, parking on our nearby streets, etc. Many trees in the area have already been cut down for development some years ago on what is now Summer Hill Circle.

So, what do you think? Do you want to spend our tax dollars on a Mountain Bike Park in Hills Hill?

The Recreation Commission, Community Preservation Committee and Town Finance Committee would also be involved and it would be good to let them know what the neighbors of Hills Hill think before this Mountain Bike Park gets any more of our tax money for more "consultants" and more "studies."

Please let me know what YOU and/or your neighbors think of building a Mountain Bike Park in Hills Hill. We will have to vote on it at Town Meeting. My hope is we can conserve the Town's limited funds for more pressing needs.

You can reach me by phone or text: 617 645 0226, or Email: MJBROWN246@GMAIL.COM

Thanks to all of you for your service to our Town.

Respectfully,

Michael Jacoby Brown, 10 Brattle Terrace, Arlington, TMM, Pct 17

--PS: I was saddened to learn that no one from the Rec. Commission or Mr. Connelly thought to inform local Town Meeting members of this idea before spending the Town's money on "consultants" We are not hard to find or to inform. Just sending an email -- which takes a few minutes -- would have been more respectful of neighbors of Hills Hill and we who try to represent them as Town Meeting Members.

Michael Jacoby Brown
10 Brattle Terrace
Arlington, MA 02474 USA
Mobile: 617 645 0226
author: *Building Powerful Community Organizations*
Pronouns he, him, his
www.MichaelJacobyBrown.com
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ws58VrYAVuY>

From: Lisa Marshall <lisa.faye.marshall@gmail.com>
To: jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: 08/04/2022 08:16 PM
Subject: support for mountain biking at Hill's Hill

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Hi Joe,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the potential pump track and mountain biking skills park at Hill's Hill. I live on Park Ave. Ext. My children, in particular, are incredibly excited by this. My youngest is 6 and I could imagine him playing here for hours. My oldest is almost 10 and she loves mountain biking. I can imagine her and her friends hanging out at the pump track when they are tweens or teens in need of adventure. The location really is perfect, kids can feel like they are "away" but in reality they are not far from many facilities.

Thanks for your work on this,
Lisa Marshall
8 Park Ave Ext

From: DIANA MOSES <mosesandmosesgilson@verizon.net>
To: Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: 08/05/2022 08:12 AM
Subject: giving priority to biking infrastructure in green spaces (Hills Hill Mountain Biking)

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Overall, Arlington has higher buildings, shallower setbacks, more pavement, and fewer trees than it used to. We have a few remaining small wooded areas. If we reduce those remaining areas further, whatever the benefits to youth and mountain bikers may be, we will have fewer trees, fewer viable green spaces, and fewer oases from human encroachment on nature.

I take it, from having read previous comments, that many people are fine, if not enthusiastic, with this direction of development. I also infer it from the changes made at other projects in open spaces recently. There seems to be a preference for more development and less nature, from what I can see (as well as from what I can read and hear about these projects).

This happens project by project, tree removal by tree removal. Each one gets rationalized separately, it seems to me, but the overall impact cannot be avoided.

My conclusion is that Arlington is becoming more of an urban landscape and less of a bucolic town.

I disagree with going in this direction.

Sincerely,

Diana Moses
Appleton St